

Friday, January 23, 2004

Vietnam vet brings message of hope to 'Bulldog' Brigade soldiers



Motivational speaker and Vietnam veteran Dave Roeber conveys his message of hope to with 3rd Brigade Combat Team soldiers during a recent visit to their forward operating bases.

By Spc. John S. Wollaston, 3rd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD, IRAQ – Sometimes, when you're having a bad day, it helps to talk to someone who's had a worse day and made it through.

For the soldiers of the Bulldog Brigade, still feeling the effects of a "bad day" announcement of a 6-week extension to their combat deployment in Iraq the day before, hearing Dave Roeber talk was the shot in the arm that most of 3rd Brigade's soldiers needed.

"I want to tell you from the bottom of my heart as I stand here before you today, thank you for what you're doing over here." He said to a full house at the Brigade's Bulldog Theater. "It's been thirty two years since I've been in a combat zone and I wanted to come here to say thanks for allowing me to sleep comfortably in my bed at night."

If there's ever been anyone whose taken advantage of the adage about "turning lemons into lemonade," it's Dave Roeber.

A gunner's mate in the "Brown Water" Navy in Vietnam, Roeber was on a patrol when a phosphorus grenade exploded next to his face severely burning most of his body.

"I was getting ready to throw it to burn away some brush near the banks of the river when it went off. Just one second longer was all I would have needed and that grenade would have been out of my hands." Roeber explained.

Had the grenade been tossed safely overboard,

the sniper's bullet that struck the grenade causing it to explode prematurely in his hand would have killed him.

Roeber was so badly burned that the medics who loaded him on the helicopter thought he was dead.

"I had half of my face and my right ear burned completely away, I had blood spurting from an open artery in my right hand and I could see my heart beating in my chest."

The phosphorus continued to burn as while he was being treated, he continued.

"When the medics put me on the stretcher initially I burned through the stretcher and fell on my head when I hit the ground."

Wrapping him in a blanket soaked in river water, he was finally loaded in the helicopter.

Thinking he was dead, the medics didn't do anything to try and help him, and so Roeber took matter into his own hands, he said.

"From under that blanket I summoned all the strength I had left and yelled Medic! That got everyone's attention real fast."

Roeber, who works as motivational speaker, travels across the country delivering his message of hope and telling people how he overcame adversity.

And Roeber should know, because when everyone else gave up on him, Dave Roeber didn't give up on himself.

From laying in the burn unit at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas listening to his father read to him the telegram telling him that his son had died to the years he spent in hospitals going through surgeries to replace his burned skin to the support and love of his wife, he never gave up.

Almost never.

Early in his recovery, after seeing himself in a mirror, he tried attempted to disconnect the IV's that were keeping him alive.

"But I pulled the wrong one," he said. "When you wake up wanting a cheeseburger like I did, you know that maybe it wasn't your time to die."

Roeber told the soldiers to seek out friends and loved ones to talk to about their experiences in Iraq when they return and not go back to bad habits they might have shaken during their deployment.

Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Hopkins presented Roeber with a Bulldog Brigade coin and a certificate of appreciation for his visit.

"I was feeling pretty down about our situation," Hopkins said, "until I heard you speak. Now, thanks to you, I'm feeling better."

The Old Ironsides Report

January 23, 2004

News...

Bush to Discuss War on Terrorism in N.M.

PHOENIX (AP) - President Bush, on a two-day mission to take top campaign themes directly to voters in states important to his re-election, wants Americans to get this message: His leadership is winning the war on terror and should be trusted to ensure continued successes. On Thursday, Bush was closing out an overnight, post-State of the Union sales trip with a speech in Roswell, N.M., focusing on both the progress and ongoing efforts in the global war against al-Qaida and other terrorist networks.

Ex-Enron Accountant Surrenders in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) - Enron Corp.'s former top accountant surrendered early Thursday and was taken in handcuffs to the courthouse to face six federal fraud charges related to the disgraced energy giant's 2001 collapse. Richard A. Causey, 44, accompanied by a pair of attorneys, walked into the Houston offices of the FBI just before daybreak. They had no comment as they entered the building. Less than an hour later, Causey arrived at the courthouse to await an appearance before a federal judge.

Stewart Judge Begins Questioning Jurors

NEW YORK (AP) - The judge in the Martha Stewart trial appears to have given up on finding 12 people completely unfamiliar with the gracious-living guru, zeroing in on those who say they can be fair despite the heavy pre-trial publicity. Transcripts of the first two days of juror questioning in Stewart's stock-fraud trial shows U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum asking potential jurors whether they can decide the case solely on the evidence.

Dean Says Voters Will See Through Flaws

LEBANON, N.H. (AP) - A humbled Howard Dean, saying "I have my warts. I sometimes say things that get me in trouble," argued Thursday that voters will see through his flaws and rally to his troubled presidential candidacy. "I'm not blow-dried. I'm not coached," Dean said as he sought to recover from his third-place Iowa finish and mounting concern over his scream-filled speech on caucus night. "I don't look at polls and even if I did they didn't do me any good in Iowa."

SAFETY TIP

Motorcycles allow for quick escape from an attack site.

- Be alert for motorcycles with driver and passenger.
- Passengers may be used to attack convoy with hand grenades, RPGs, or small arms.

It is never too late...

Man Gets Diploma 64 Years After School

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) -- Merle Beane was just months from graduating when he walked out of Portland High School for the last time 64 years ago after being told he didn't belong there. Now, Beane's got his diploma.

Afflicted by a condition that made his hands shake involuntarily, Beane struggled as he filled out an absentee form after missing two days of school due to the flu in 1939.

A woman in the office told him, "People like you shouldn't be in school," Beane recalled. "I don't know who it was. It could have been a parent, but still, to this day, I just don't know."

Sixty-four years later, Beane sent an audiotape recounting the event to Portland High's principal. The tape told of Beane's walk to the local dump afterward to scour for pennies, and of his love for school. And he said he wished to have his diploma.

"The tape he sent me, it's just incredible to hear," said Principal Michael Johnson, who was moved to tears by the story.

"I've listened to it five or six times. He would talk about how he absolutely loves this school, the smell of it, the books, the chalkboard," said Johnson.

Johnson pulled Beane's transcript, which showed he was on track for graduation and confirmed that Beane had later gotten an equivalency diploma.

The principal went to visit Beane, who's confined to his bed because of medical problems, and brought a Portland High diploma along.

Johnson said Beane was speechless at first, but the words finally came.

"He must have said thank you a hundred times," Johnson said.

Beane insists he didn't drop out of high school.

"I left. I left because I was told to get out. And I did what I was told," said Beane. But Beane, who held a number of jobs before working for Ellis Paper Board in Scarborough for 30 years, gradually realized he had made a mistake.

Chaplain's thought for the day...

Self-Control

Quarrel not at all. No man resolved to make the most of himself can spare time for personal contention. Still less can he afford to take all the consequences, including the vitiating of his temper and loss of self-control.

-- Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

The Old Ironsides Report

January 23, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2004				As of: Thursday, January 22, 2004 7:41:41 PM		
Start Time		ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	SPORTS	HEADLINE NEWS	GOLDI : - COLD HARD CASH	TODAY		00:00
00:30	ESPNEWS	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			ARMY NEWSWATCH	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		HELEN WEST : - A CLEAR CONSCIENCE		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	NBA - SACRAMENTO KINGS @ CLEVELAND CAVALIERS (W/PRE-GAME)	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: NORTH CAROLINA @ FLORIDA STATE	ROCKET POWER : - D IS FOR DAD	TELETUBBIES : - WASHING THE CAR	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS : - LITTLE GIRL IN THE BIG TEN	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - RUDY'S SICK			04:30
05:00		COLLEGE BASKETBALL - BIG XII: RICHMOND @ KANSAS	CHARMED : - THE DAY THE MAGIC DIED	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30	NBA - LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ DALLAS MAVERICKS					05:30
06:00			THE X-FILES : - FIRE	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	CNBC: THE NEWS	06:00
06:30				JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SAVAGE SEAS : - RESCUE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30		ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	INSIDE THE NBA	HEADLINE NEWS	THE LIFE OF MAMMALS		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30		HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00	NFL TOTAL ACCESS	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - BLOOD TIES	CALILOU : - PETS	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				THE WEEKENDERS : - SECRET ADMIRER/ THE LONE WOLF CLUB		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	TELETUBBIES : - WASHING THE CAR	IRON CHEF : - CHINESE CABBAGE/CHEN VS HISAO ODACHI	AS TOLD BY GINGER	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		CHALK ZONE : - PIEDAY1 SECRET PASSAGEWAYS1 IN THE ZONE1 SKRAWL		10:30
11:00	FIA SPORTSCAR CHAMPIONSHIP - DONINGTON	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER : - D IS FOR DAD	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY	HEADLINE NEWS		11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00	NHL - PHILADELPHIA FLYERS @ NY RANGERS		THE SIMPSONS : - LITTLE GIRL IN THE BIG TEN	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - RUDY'S SICK	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			CHARMED : - THE DAY THE MAGIC DIED	THAT 70'S SHOW : - BABE I'M GONNA LEAVE YOU	FOX NEWS LIVE	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:17
13:30				MEET MY FOLKS		13:30
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE X-FILES : - FIRE		PRIMETIME	14:00
14:30	SPORTSCENTER	JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00		TODAY	SAVAGE SEAS : - RESCUE	24 : - DAY 2: 10:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:30	AUSTRALIAN OPEN TENNIS - EARLY ROUND COVERAGE DAY 5					15:30
16:00			THE LIFE OF MAMMALS	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00		CALILOU : - PETS	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - BLOOD TIES		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		THE WEEKENDERS : - SECRET ADMIRER/ THE LONE WOLF CLUB		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00		AS TOLD BY GINGER	IRON CHEF : - CHINESE CABBAGE/CHEN VS HISAO ODACHI		THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		CHALK ZONE : - PIEDAY1 SECRET PASSAGEWAYS1 IN THE ZONE1 SKRAWL		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER : - D IS FOR DAD	THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS : - CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY			19:30
20:00	INSIDE THE NFL	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - LITTLE GIRL IN THE BIG TEN		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW : - RUDY'S SICK			20:30
20:45						20:45
21:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PAC-10: UCLA @ STANFORD	THAT 70'S SHOW : - BABE I'M GONNA LEAVE YOU	CHARMED : - THE DAY THE MAGIC DIED	SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT	PRIMETIME	21:00
21:30		MEET MY FOLKS				21:30
22:00			THE X-FILES : - FIRE		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - PAC-10: OREGON @ ARIZONA STATE	24 : - DAY 2: 10:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.	SAVAGE SEAS : - RESCUE	TODAY	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30					INSIDE POLITICS	23:30

Today in history... Jan. 23, 1968

USS *PUEBLO* CAPTURED:

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) On January 23, 1968, the USS *Pueblo* a Navy intelligence vessel, is engaged in a routine surveillance of the North Korean coast when it is intercepted by North Korean patrol boats. According to U.S. reports, the *Pueblo* was in international waters almost 16 miles from shore, but the North Koreans turned their guns on the lightly armed vessel and demanded its surrender. The Americans attempted to escape, and the North Koreans opened fire, wounding the commander, Lloyd Bucher, and two others. With capture inevitable, the Americans stalled for time, destroying the classified information aboard while taking further fire. Several more crew members were wounded, including Duane Hodges, who later died from his injuries.

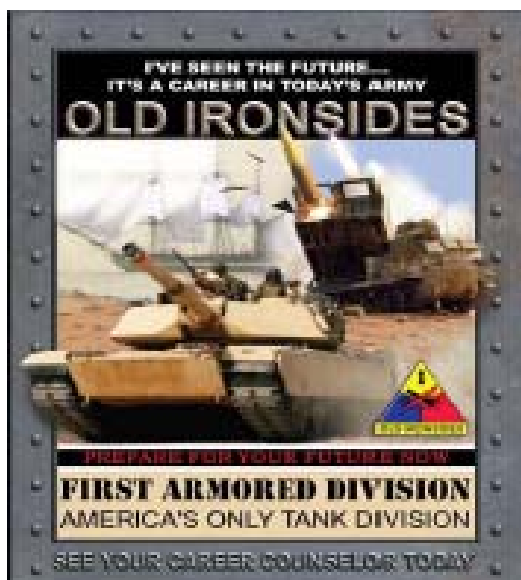
Finally, the *Pueblo* was boarded and taken to Wonson. There, the 83-man crew was bound and blindfolded and transported to Pyongyang, where they were charged with spying within North Korea's 12-mile territorial limit and imprisoned. It was the biggest crisis in two years of increased tension and minor skirmishes between the United States and North Korea.

The United States maintained that the *Pueblo* had been in international waters and demanded the release of the captive sailors. With the Tet Offensive raging 2,000 miles to the south in Vietnam, President Lyndon Johnson ordered no direct retaliation, but the United States began a military buildup in the area. North Korean authorities, meanwhile, coerced a confession and apology out of *Pueblo* commander Bucher, in which he stated, "I will never again be a party to any disgraceful act of aggression of this type." The rest of the crew also signed a confession under threat of torture.

The prisoners were then taken to a second compound in the countryside near Pyongyang, where they were forced to study propaganda materials and beaten for straying from the compound's strict rules. In August, the North Koreans staged a phony news conference in which the prisoners were to praise their humane treatment, but the Americans thwarted the Koreans by inserting innuendoes and sarcastic language into their statements. Some prisoners also rebelled in photo shoots by casually sticking out their middle finger; a gesture that their captors didn't understand. Later, the North Koreans caught on and beat the Americans for a week.

On December 23, 1968, exactly 11 months after the *Pueblo's* capture, U.S. and North Korean negotiators reached a settlement to resolve the crisis. Under the settlement's terms, the United States admitted the ship's intrusion into North Korean territory, apologized for the action, and pledged to cease any future such action. That day, the surviving 82 crewmen walked one by one across the "Bridge of No Return" at Panmunjon to freedom in South Korea. They were hailed as heroes and returned home to the United States in time for Christmas.

Incidents between North Korea and the United States continued in 1969, and in April 1969 a North Korean MiG fighter shot down a U.S. Navy intelligence aircraft, killing all 31 men aboard. In 1970, quiet returned to the demilitarized zone.



Reenlistment Bonus Still Available

The Army keeps rewarding soldiers with cash for reenlisting while deployed. Task Force 1st Armored Division soldiers with less than 10 years of service can earn from \$5,000 to \$10,000 when they reenlist.

Soldiers must reenlist for 36 months. Other factors that will determine the bonus amount include years of service and current pay grade.

For more information contact your career counselor:

- Command Career Counselor: SGM James Jaranowski, 551-9405
- Retention Operations NCO: MSG Gary Schoolfield, 551-9405
- 1st Brigade: SFC Burke, Martyrs' Monument, 550-7027
- 2nd Brigade: SSG Gibson, Presidential Palace, 551-2010
- 4th Brigade: MSG Wolfe, 551-6620
- DIVARTY: SFC Hilton, 551-7030
- DIVENG: MSG Collier, 551-6131
- DISCOM SFC Casnave, 551-9405
- Division Troops: SFC Nagle, 551-9405